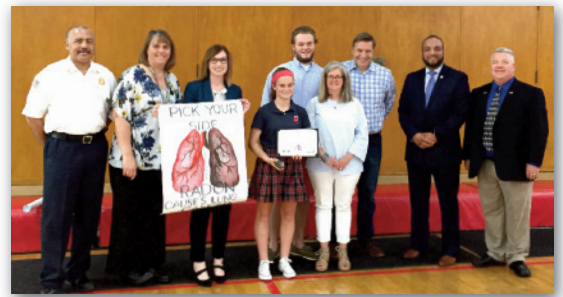


From IEMA Director James K. Joseph

As director, I feel honored to work with the agency's dedicated men and women who serve the residents of Illinois every day.

I'm particularly blessed to work with professionals whose expertise in their fields is recognized nationally and internationally. People like Deputy Director Joe Klinger, whose decades of leadership and technical support for efforts to keep people safe from unnecessary exposure to radiation was recently recognized by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) with that organization's highest honor. In addition, IEMA's Gary Forsee, a health physicist with the Bureau of Radiation Safety, was recognized for his contributions to radiation protection with CRCPD's second-highest award. Truly a fine reflection on Illinois' leadership in nuclear and radiation safety. I want to sincerely thank Joe and Gary, as well as all of our outstanding staff, for their dedicated work toward our public safety mission.

I'm also honored to have the opportunity to meet many of our state's outstanding young people, such as the winners of our radon video and poster contests. During presentation events at their schools, I enjoyed meeting with video contest winner Maddie Kogelis and poster contest winner Brigid Zoltan, along with their families, teachers and fellow students. Both students showed amazing creativity and talent in their winning projects, and I encourage you to check them out. Brigid's poster is on page 7 of this newsletter, while Maddie's video can be viewed at www.radon.illinois.gov.



Radon poster contest winner Brigid Zoltan of St. Athanasius School in Evanston.



Maddie Kogelis had the winning radon video as well as the award for most views.

As always, it continues to be a great honor to work with all of our partners on behalf of the people of Illinois.

In this issue

Klinger, Forsee Receive Top Awards at CRCPD Meeting	2
Born, Canton Hy-Vee Recognized for Volunteer Service	2
SEOC Activated for Flash, River Flooding	4
Senior Staff Spotlight: Jennifer Ricker	5
James Pepper Appointed as State RACES Officer	5
Joint Purchasing Program Now Available	6
Gelletta Leaving Strategic Planning Cell for Africa	6
State Radon Poster, Video Contest Winners Selected.....	7
IEMA Hosts Radiological Transportation Incident Course.....	7
Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.....	8
Foster to Chair National Data Sharing Task Force	9

Klinger, Forsee Receive Top Awards at CRCPD Meeting

Two IEMA staffers recently were recognized by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) during the organization's annual meeting. Deputy Director Joe Klinger received the Gerald S. Parker Award of Merit, and Gary Forsee, a health physicist with the Bureau of Radiation Safety, received the James W. Miller Award.

Klinger was recognized for "his significant contributions in the field of radiation protection and, in particular, for his contributions to the mission and goals" of CRCPD. In presenting the Award of Merit, the organization's highest award, CRCPD cited Klinger's leadership and technical support to national and international efforts in radiological health and safety, including his knowledge and expertise that helped shape both national and international policy for the security and safe disposition

of unwanted and orphan radioactive sources. In addition to serving as CRCPD Chairperson in 2013-2014, Klinger also served on the board of directors and numerous CRCPD committees.



Gary Forsee received CRCPD's second-highest honor from Board Chairperson Jared Thompson.



CRCPD Board Chairperson Jared Thompson presents the organization's top honor to Deputy Director Joe Klinger.

Forsee was recognized for his exemplary leadership as chair of a CRCPD working group on regulations for Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (TENORM) and for his overall contributions to radiation protection. In presenting its second-highest award, CRCPD noted Forsee is recognized as a subject matter expert for TENORM issues at the state level, and that Illinois' laws and regulations regarding TENORM serve as a model for other states. Forsee also was commended for his work on committees dealing with TENORM waste disposal in the oil and gas industry.

Born, Canton Hy-Vee Recognized for Volunteer Service

The Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service recently recognized an emergency response volunteer and a business for making a difference in Illinois. During the annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards on April 25, Stephen Born of Springfield was recognized for building the Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) in central Illinois, and Hy-Vee Canton was recognized for supporting disaster response efforts in Fulton County by providing food to area emergency response agencies.

LERT

Born started the LERT in August 2013 in Decatur with a training session for 28 volunteers. Less than three months later, LERT volunteers deployed to Washington after an EF-4 tornado destroyed more than 600 homes and damaged hundreds more. Born,



Stephen Born of Lutheran Early Response Team with Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti.

(Continued on page 3)

Born, Canton Hy-Vee Recognized for Volunteer Service (Continued from page 2)

who wasn't working at the time, spent the next eight months assisting with recovery efforts.

The experience galvanized Born's resolve to assist others in their time of need. He coordinated with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) office in St. Louis to receive training so that he could train others. Since then, he has conducted 23 trainings for team members, who now number more than 700.

The Central Illinois LERT has several ways to help communities affected by disasters, including a chain saw crew with more than 100 members, 17 comfort dogs, nine disaster response trailers and several grief counselors.

Everyone who joins the LERT must take a basic six-hour course. Additional training is available for specific response skills, such as an eight-hour, U.S. Forest Service-approved training for the chain saw crew that includes four hours of hands-on experience. Team members pay \$35 for each training course, which is then used to buy gift cards that are provided to disaster survivors.

Besides the Washington tornado, LERT members have assisted after tornadoes in Fairdale, Rochelle, Moweaqua, Pontiac and East Moline, as well as after windstorms in Quincy and Springfield and three flood events in Watseka. So far in 2017, the team has assisted in Ottawa and Washburn after the Feb. 28 tornadoes and in Eureka, Missouri following the April flooding.

Born, a licensed funeral director and embalmer, estimates he devotes thousands of hours each year to planning, training and disaster responses. He said the Holy Spirit drives him to "pay it forward" and help people when they're hurting.

The all-volunteer LERT is completely self-sufficient. Each member must have his or her own insurance and must sign a volunteer liability form before deploying. Team members also pay for their own travel expenses related to deployments. While the team accepts no reimbursement for its expenses, all volunteer time is tracked during deployments and provided to the county emergency management coordinator. If the county is included in a federal public assistance disaster declaration, the LERT volunteer hours can be claimed as donated resources, which can be credited toward the county's non-federal share for emergency work.

While LERT members are constantly ready to deploy, they never self-deploy. Following a disaster, the team reaches out to the closest LCMS church to see if they can use it as a base of operations. The team also coordinates with the local emergency management agencies to determine how they can best assist the affected community. Because most of the team's volunteers have full-time jobs, most deployments are on Saturdays, when as many as 200 LERT members can complete a large number of tasks.

Born has several training sessions scheduled later this year and into 2018. He expects the central Illinois LERT, already the largest in the U.S., to increase to more than 1,000 members by the end of this year.

Canton Hy-Vee

The Hy-Vee in Canton was nominated by Chris Helle, director of Fulton County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency. In his nomination, Helle cited Hy-Vee's willingness to donate food and supplies during large-scale disasters to support first responders, including many volunteer firefighters. Helle highlighted Hy-Vee's efforts after a large gas explosion rocked Canton in November 2016, when the business ensured the Salvation Army had "every resource the store had to offer."



Jeff Turnbull (left) and Scott McFarland (right) of the Serve Illinois Commission present the award to Heather Gearity of Hy-Vee Canton.

Award Nominations

The Serve Illinois Commission recently revised project categories for the Volunteer Service Awards, with one category focused on disaster services. Applications for the next round of awards will be available around June 1 and will be due Aug. 1. For more information about the awards, visit www.Serve.Illinois.gov.

SEOC Activated for Flash, Major River Flooding

Widespread heavy rainfall at the end of April caused flash flooding and major flooding on many Illinois rivers. The river flooding was compounded by additional heavy rains in southern Illinois a few days later.

Governor Bruce Rauner activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Springfield on May 1 to ensure state personnel and equipment could be quickly deployed to help communities with flooding-related public safety issues.

Representatives from IEMA, Illinois State Police, the Illinois departments of Natural Resources, Corrections, Transportation, Public Health, Human Services and Aging, along with the Illinois National Guard, Illinois Commerce Commission, FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the American Red Cross, the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, the Illinois

Emergency Services Management Association and the National Weather Service reported to the SEOC to coordinate deployment of state resources and personnel to communities battling floodwaters.

Assistance coordinated through the SEOC included 87,000 sandbags, 800 tons of sand, eight offender crews, more than two dozen pumps, plastic, generators, light towers, heavy equipment and more. IEMA also deployed staff to southern Illinois to support flood-impacted communities.

Donations of nearly 150,000 bottles and cans of water from Coca-Cola, Anheuser-Busch and the American Red Cross also were coordinated through the SEOC to assist the village of Greenup after much of that community was without potable water following a water main break.



Crews from local and state agencies, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the private sector worked around the clock to stabilize sand boils discovered behind the Preston Levee near Wolf Lake in Union County.

Senior Staff Spotlight: Jennifer Ricker

While most of IEMA's senior staff members have responsibilities related to their bureaus or specific subject matter, IEMA's Chief of Staff Jennifer Ricker's responsibilities touch virtually every aspect of the agency. She directs all financial, legal, human resources, information technology and legislative activities for the agency, is leading the process for development of the agency's long-term strategy and goals, and coordinates internal policies and directives to ensure agency compliance with laws and regulations.

As chief results officer, Ricker is responsible for developing and implementing performance metrics and aligning agency performance reporting with the state's Budgeting for Results legislation. She also is the agency's voting representative on the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) and vice chair of the ITTF Emergency Management Committee.

Ricker's keen understanding of state government began when she joined the Illinois House of Representatives as a legislative analyst shortly after she graduated from college. She said the position exposed her to all aspects of government and gave her a solid foundation for her government career. She later served as legislative director and chief of staff at the Illinois Department of Revenue before joining the Governor's office as a deputy chief of staff working with the General Assembly and legislative staffs on budget-related issues.



Chief of Staff Jennifer Ricker

She later became the Governor's deputy chief of staff for public safety, where she oversaw eight public safety agencies, including IEMA. Her knowledge of the agency's mission and programs helped her hit the ground running when she was named IEMA's chief of staff in March 2009.

While she has been in her position for more than eight years, Ricker said over the past two years she's had more opportunities to interact with IEMA's

county and municipal partners and is enjoying learning more about them.

Ricker is a graduate of the University of Missouri in Columbia. She is pursuing a master's degree in security studies with a focus on homeland defense and security from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, which she expects to complete in March 2018.

She has lived in Springfield for most of her life and currently lives in the capital city with her husband Sean and son Cole.

Between the demands of her chief of staff role, work on her master's degree and precious family time, Ricker likes to relieve stress by driving her Mustang GT (in Mizzou colors, of course), hitting Lake Springfield in her boat and taking in the occasional heavy metal concert.

James Pepper Appointed as State RACES Officer

IEMA Director James Joseph recently appointed James Pepper to serve as the State Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) Officer. Pepper will serve as IEMA's liaison to the Illinois amateur radio community and will ensure the state RACES plan is properly executed during times of emergency.

Pepper, who has worked for the Illinois State Police for nearly two decades, is the radio network manager for the northern third of Illinois.

As State RACES Officer, Pepper will also oversee the Auxiliary Communications



Jim Pepper is the new State RACES officer.

function, and will ensure that the efforts of the RACES team, as well as those of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and similar groups and organizations, are integrated into the overall emergency communications structure in the state of Illinois.

The eight RACES regions within the state are aligned with IEMA's regions. Each RACES region has a regional officer, who Pepper will oversee.

Pepper replaces Brad Pioveson, who recently stepped down from the position he held for many years.

Joint Purchasing Program Now Available

The procurement process for response agencies can be tricky on blue-sky days, but during an emergency situation, procuring needed resources and supplies can be particularly challenging.

IEMA Director James Joseph recently directed staff to identify goods and services potentially needed during response and recovery and to then work with the state's Department of Central Management Services (CMS) to have these items bid through proper procurement channels, contracted for, and made available through the CMS Joint Purchasing Program.

To utilize the program's contracts, agencies first must register with the CMS program. This includes submitting a State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program Participation Resolution, which demonstrates the entity's governing body officially approved participation in the program. Agencies should check with their jurisdiction's purchasing officer to determine if a resolution is already on file with CMS before proceeding.

Once registered with the program, local government agencies can purchase directly off the state joint

purchasing contracts. Instructions, a copy of the participation resolution and the contact information update form, which also must be filed with CMS, are available on the IEMA webpage.

Participants in the program can save time and money when purchasing many commodities, services and equipment, as well as significantly reduce their administrative expenses by avoiding the time-consuming competitive bid process.

Goods and services available through this initiative can be viewed on the IEMA website at <https://www.illinois.gov/iema/localema/pages/purchasing.aspx>. Please check back often, as additional items will be added once CMS has completed the bidding and contracting process. IEMA is working to make this the broadest program of its type anywhere in the U.S., eventually offering everything from gauze bandages to debris removal contractors.

If you would like to see a particular item or service included, please forward that information to IEMA through your regional coordinator.

Gelletta Leaving Strategic Planning Cell for Africa

For nearly two years, American Red Cross planner Jonathan Gelletta has worked with the IEMA Strategic Planning Cell (SPC) on updating mass care plans and the revision of the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan. His work with the SPC ends this month as he prepares to leave for the Central African Republic on a six-month contract with Doctors Without Borders.

As a logistics manager supporting a medical project covering three hospitals, a refugee camp and an outreach vaccination program, Gelletta said he will apply the decision making, planning, coordinating and facilitation skills he built while working with IEMA. While working in a conflict zone, he said he will "apply the sense of humor, ability to think under pressure and general acceptance of absurdity that he developed while working closely with Darryl Dragoo for two years."

Gelletta began supporting the SPC in June 2015 with the goal of updating IEMA's mass care plans.



Jonathan Gelletta will be working in the Central African Republic with Doctors Without Borders.

However, his scope of work expanded greatly to include a role in the SPC's complete revision of the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP). While he spent considerable time shepherding annexes and appendices on state support to mass care, feeding, sheltering and multi-agency resources centers through the working group process, Gelletta said he also had the opportunity to work with every liaison to the State Emergency Operations Center on documents covering every functional area of emergency response.

Recognizing the value of multi-disciplinary collaboration in mass care planning, the American Red Cross hopes to hire a replacement for Gelletta in the near future. Although he is sad to leave, Gelletta is pleased by the ARC's intention to remain engaged in the SPC and hopes his successor will continue to facilitate and build on the strong planning partnership that already exists between IEMA and the Red Cross.

State Radon Poster, Video Contest Winners Selected

Hundreds of students from across the state recently used their creative talents to increase public awareness about the health hazards of radioactive radon gas in homes. Nearly 800 posters and 141 one-minute YouTube videos were submitted to IEMA and the American Lung Association in Illinois (ALA-IL) for consideration in the annual contests.

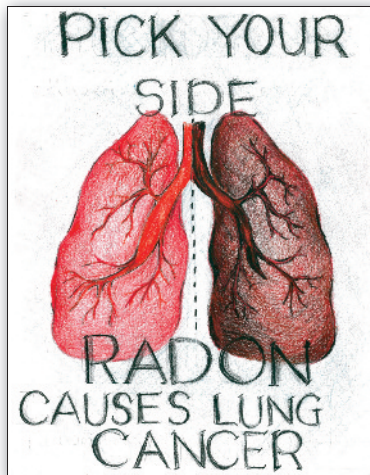
The three winning posters were submitted to the 2018 National Radon Poster Contest sponsored by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. The top 10 videos were recognized and included in a week-long most-views contest in which the students promoted viewership of their videos through social media.

An award presentation was held at Washington Community High School in Washington for Maddie Kogelis, who took first place in the video and most-

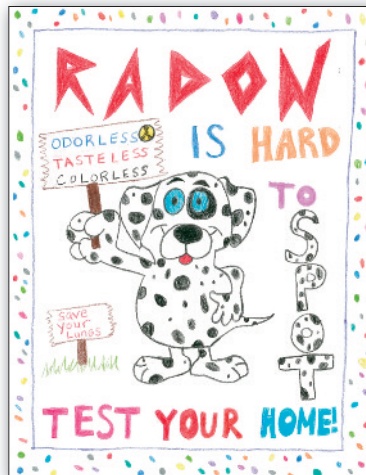
views contests. The first place winner in the poster contest, Brigid Zoltan of St. Athanasius School in Evanston, was also recognized during a presentation ceremony at her school.

The winning entries are available on the IEMA Radon website at www.radon.illinois.gov and on the ALA-IL website at <http://healthhouse.org/radon/il.cfm>.

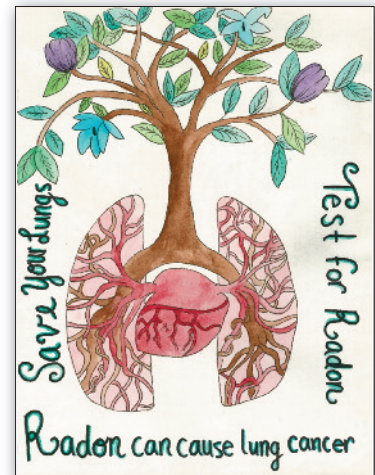
Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that comes from the radioactive decay of naturally-occurring uranium in the soil. It can enter homes and buildings through small cracks in the foundation, sump pumps or soil in crawlspaces. It is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S., but the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. Approximately 1,200 people in Illinois die each year from radon-related lung cancer.



1st Place Poster Contest Winner
Brigid Zoltan, Evanston, IL



2nd Place Poster Contest Winner
Mia Moore, Vienna, IL



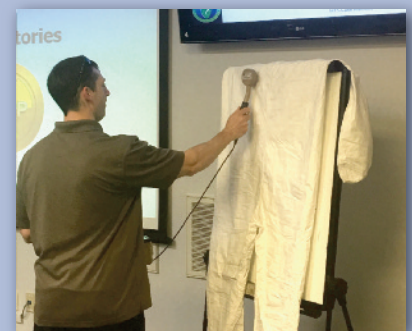
3rd Place Poster Contest Winner
Kathryn Blackburn, Metamora, IL

IEMA Hosts Radiological Transportation Incident Course

Twenty people from Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin recently participated in the U.S. Department of Energy's Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) train-the-trainer course hosted by IEMA.

The two-day course provides fundamental knowledge for responding to transportation incidents involving radioactive material, including a review of radiation protection principles, radiological survey instruments and decontamination techniques for handling radiologically contaminated victims.

The course's flexible, modular design includes concise, easy-to-understand modules and hands-on practical exercises. The material meets the training needs of people serving in fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical service, emergency management and public works, as well as those on a hazardous materials team.



A MERRTT participant uses radiation detection instrumentation to demonstrate the proper procedure and form for determining if radioactive contamination is present.

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Nearly two dozen children and relatives of IEMA employees in Springfield participated in the annual “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” activities on April 27. The day is designed to introduce young women and men to all types of employment and to heighten their career aspirations. It also provides young people with an appreciation of the challenges and issues faced by working parents.

Children and their sponsors enjoyed presentations and hands-on activities at several of IEMA’s facilities, including the State Emergency Operations Center, the Radiological Emergency Assessment Center, and the radiochemistry laboratory. In the afternoon, children observed their sponsors at work in their offices.



Sandi Nickel helps children learn about radiation detectors.



Katelyn Hoke uses smoke to demonstrate how a fume hood contains chemical fumes to protect chemists against exposure to hazardous chemicals.



The students learned about protective clothing and equipment when they donned lab coats and protective eyewear.



Students check a mannequin for radioactive contamination.

Foster to Chair National Data Sharing Task Force

Kay Foster, chief of the Bureau of Nuclear Facility Safety, recently was selected to chair the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) Task Force on Data Sharing from Community Reception Centers. The task force includes representatives from Florida, Kansas and Tennessee and has advisers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Association of County and City Health Officials.



**Bureau of Nuclear Facility
Safety Chief Kay Foster**

The task force met recently to work with the developers of RadResponder to create a module for community reception center population monitoring data that meets the needs of state and local radiation control programs and the CDC. The group identified data fields that should be collected at the community reception centers and output display format for RadResponder.

Two small-scale community reception center data-sharing drills are planned to test the pilot module. The first drill will be in July and only involve the states on the task force. The second drill will be held in August with at least 10 states participating.

The data visualization interface to be tested by the task force would allow local and state end-users to use the visualized data for several purposes, including to display open community reception center and mass care sites and screening criteria used at each site, inform resource allocation, shape public messaging needs, assist with triaging people to follow-up care, and provide more rapid access to needed resources, services and interventions.

Save the Date!

**21st Annual IEMA Training Summit
September 5-7, 2017**

**Prairie Capital Convention Center
Springfield, IL**

**Sponsor and exhibitor opportunities
now available at: www.illinois.gov/iema.**



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State of Illinois
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